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ROUGH JUSTICE

Crime and punishment at Kingston Museum

Page 7

See inside for all the latest news

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Iconic venue: The Peel Deadlinepix KT17861

PLUG IS PULLED ON PEEL

Live music venue to be sold off by debt-ridden brewery

REPORTER
ROSS LOGAN
ross.logan@
london.newsquest.co.uk

An iconic Kingston music venue has announced it will close down later this year.

The Sir Robert Peel – known simply as The Peel by thousands of bands and gig-goers – broke the news on its Facebook page, saying the closure "had been coming for some time".

The venue, in Cambridge Road, is being sold off by debt-ridden brewery owner Punch Taverns, which owes creditors £2.3bn.

An exact closing date is yet to be set, however.

A spokeswoman for Punch Taverns said: "We can confirm that the Sir Robert Peel is currently open and trading. The pub remains on the open market and we are considering offers from a range of interested parties."

Administrators on the Peel's Facebook page thanked customers for their support over the years.

One message read: "It is so nice to see all the support for The Peel, thank you all very much.

"The management are currently in the process of trying to organise a big party to say thanks for all your constant support, so keep your eyes (Sir Robert) peeled."

For many years, the Peel was one of the borough's premier live gig venues, where hundreds of young bands cut their performing teeth both onstage and in the rehearsal rooms below.

It has also played host to many more established acts, including the Vaccines, Jamie T, Gallows and John Newman.

The news of the Peel's imminent closure was met with dismay by supporters.

One Facebook user wrote: "Where the hell are new bands gonna get a chance to strut their stuff?! Really sad news if that's true."

Another said: "Nooo, the peel is an amazing venue for gigs. It can't close".

The Peel's popularity has waned in recent years, opening infrequently to host guaranteed sell-out live shows.

Jon Tolley, manager of Banquet Records, which organised hundreds of gigs at the Peel, said: "I worked at the Peel behind the bar and put on shows before doing Banquet, and there's been some amazing gigs, but it's lost its way a bit.

"But the fact is the room is the best room to watch live music in Kingston.

"There's going to be a big hole left when it goes."

As well as being a landmark music venue, the Peel was also known for offering lap dance, striptease and pole dancing shows.

Last year, when the pub applied for a new sex establishment licence in accordance with licensing law changes, several residents opposed the move – unaware such shows had been legally held at the venue for years.

Closing: The Peel Deadlinepix KT17861

Inside

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GREENBELT: London First floats plan for new Crossrail 2 suburb

Are 70,000 homes really planned for Chessington?

REPORTER
JON SHARMAN
jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk

A Liberal Democrat campaign against up to 70,000 new homes in Chessington has been dismissed as "scaremongering" by Kingston Conservatives, and "desperate" by City Hall.

The idea for a new suburb was floated by business pressure group London First that said planning rules could be used to fund train expansion scheme Crossrail 2.

Lib Dems said Richard Blakeway, London's deputy mayor for housing, backed the recommendations for a review into using greenbelt land for homes and identifying Chessington as a possible site for a "significant" new community.

Kingston and Surbiton MP Edward Davey said: "If Boris continues to push 70,000 extra homes in Chessington it would double the size of the royal borough in a stroke, put intolerable strain on our roads and services and destroy our precious greenbelt, including ancient woodland."

Kingston Council leader Liz Green said: "We call on Boris to reject the recommendations that suggest building on our greenbelt.

"We fight to keep some green and open space within Kingston. We already don't have that much."

But Boris Johnson told a question time audience at Richard Challoner School on Wednesday night: "As far as I understand there is no such plan. There may be some Lib Dem plan to do it but we are not aware of it.

"I would not support building on greenbelt."

A spokesman from the Mayor of London's office said: "One of the recommendations in the report regards Chessington, however, this was not highlighted to the deputy mayor, nor did he comment on it.

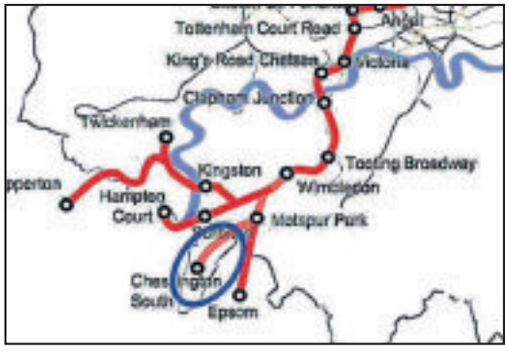
"A Conservative-run City Hall would never endorse such a plan for the Chessington greenbelt. This is a desperate misuse of the work of a business organisation."

David Leam, London First infrastructure director, said: "Our report was setting out, for illustrative purposes only, the additional property value that would be created by a substantial new housing development of up to 70,000 homes.

"The actual number of new homes that could be built should be explored by local boroughs and the Mayor."

James Berry, Conservative parliamentary candidate for Kingston and Surbiton, said: "There is not one scintilla of Conservative support for mass building on green field sites in Chessington."

And former Labour parliamentary candidate Julie Reay said: "I've checked and there is no plan to build 70,000 homes in Chessington. I'm not a fan of Boris or the Tories, but I hate this stupid campaigning style of the Lib Dems."



Idea: Crossrail 2 (in red) could see thousands of new homes built

1,700 say 'no' to Shia plan

A Muslim community has abandoned its plans to open an Islamic centre in an abandoned Worcester Park pub.

The Shia Ismaili community pulled its plans for exercise classes, senior's day clubs and quiet meditation in the Worcester Park Tavern in Park Terrace after an opposition petition gathered more than 1,700 signatures.

A spokesman from the group said: "The Ismaili community would like to thank all the respondents for their feedback and participation in the consultation process.

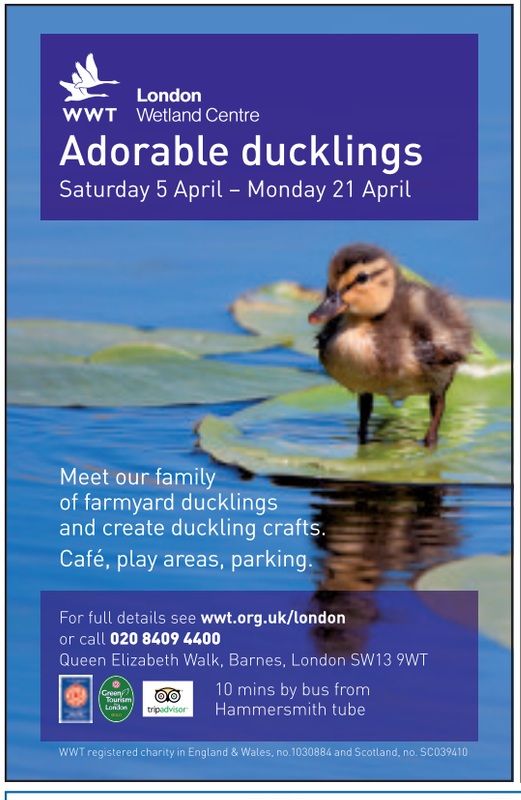
"It remains the hope of members of the Ismaili community that this building will soon be put to good use."

Old Malden Councillor David Fraser said: "They did listen to the people and if the people were more in favour they would have carried on.

"I have a high regard for them now. But it would have been a traffic nightmare."

Closed: Worcester Park pub

Deadlinepix KT75543



Housing could get box clever on former Toby Jug site

The disputed Tolworth Tesco site could be the ideal new solution for affordable housing.

YMCA London South West is in talks with Kingston Council about introducing the charity's new Y:Cube housing scheme to the borough.

The 26sq m units, which feature a lounge, kitchen facilities and bedroom with ensuite bathroom, are being heralded by the charity as a cost-effective alternative for poor and homeless people who cannot afford to buy or rent privately.

A prototype of the Y:Cube is currently outside YMCA Wimbledon, with plans for the first Y:Cube housing scheme comprising 36 units to open in Mitcham by the end of this year.

Andy Redfearn, YMCA director of development, said the charity had held talks about bringing a scheme to Kingston – with the former Toby Jug site in Tolworth mooted as a potential site.

Mr Redfearn said: "We are having discussions with Kingston Council about how we can deliver a scheme in the borough.

"Officers are very keen to develop affordable housing and obviously Y:Cube does that."

Tesco withdrew an application for a supermarket, hotel and 269 flats on the site next to the A3 earlier this month – the third time since 2002 it had scrapped plans following opposition from councillors and the public.

The supermarket giant has now ditched its supermarket plans altogether, and promised to create a residential-led development that would make a "major contribution to Kingston's housing needs".

Mr Redfearn said: "We have had conversations along with other housing providers to present some proposals to Tesco.

"We were asked for creative ideas to bring the site back into use, and one of our suggestions was the Y:Cube.

"No formal discussion has been had with Tesco. It was before we knew about Tesco pulling its supermarket application."

Tesco has promised to consult on future plans later this year, and Mr Redfearn said the YMCA was "keen to be part of the discussions".

The Y:Cube has been designed by architects Rogers Stirk Harbour and Partners, and will be offered to single people who are former YMCA residents or on the waiting list for a council home.

Each timber-made unit is constructed off-site, and can be stacked side by side or on top of each other – meaning whole developments could potentially be taken apart and relocated if needed.

At an estimated £45,000 a unit, the Y:Cube is cheaper to build than other housing developments, and each unit will be let at 65 per cent the normal market rent.

The prototype outside Wimbledon YMCA will be open to the public today, April 3, from 10am to 2pm.

Affordable housing: A prototype of the Y:Cube

CONTACTS
Calls may be monitored for training purposes

EDITORIAL
Assistant Editor: David Lindsell
newsdesk@kingstonguardian.co.uk
Tel: 020 8744 4244

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Kingston Guardian: 32,283 Average net circulation: January to December, 2013; 100% free

Audience on the web: 36,292 unique users visit the site every month (Jul-Dec 2013)
130,283 pages are looked at every month (Jul-Dec 2013)

PINK RAPPED: New paint job at former jeweller's shop splits opinion

Spoiling our heritage – or suburban snobbery?

REPORTER
JON SHARMAN
jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk

Liberal Democrat politicians have taken aim at the new bright pink paint job on a former jewellers in Surbiton, claiming it spoils the building's appearance.

FP Turner and Sons, which closed on Christmas Eve last year, is destined to become a nail bar, Five Star Nails, and has been painted bright pink by its new owners.

And now Lib Dems in Surbiton have started a petition to ask the owners to change their minds.

St Mark's councillor and council leader Liz Green said: "It now just looks silly. It's bright pink with very traditional black and gold lettering.

"We have had more than 100 signatures on the petition already."

Supportive shoppers online have said it is a case of "Surbiton snobbery" in their posts, while opponents claimed the attitude was necessary to preserve the town's heritage in a conservation area.

One online poster, Lawrence Bromley, said: "Agree, Surbiton can be snobbish. Just don't complain when old buildings you think are pretty are torn down for an Aldi."

One resident tweeted: "Tasteful Surbiton women will boycott this tack."

But another said: "I think it looks quite good, certainly brightens the place up. Surbiton is boring, let's face it, who goes there to shop?"

Another, Ben Ayers, said: "The people of Surbiton need more to worry about."

Others said they were reminded of last year's minor controversy over the decoration of Surbiton's Waitrose-sponsored Christmas tree.

Conservative Berrylands Councillor Karen George said the shop's new colour was "incongruous".

She said: "It just doesn't fit in with the actual hoarding. I think cross-party on that one."

The new owner, Truong van Bui, did not respond to an online message.

See letters, page 16

Front: The shop is to become Five Star Nails Deadlinepix KT83909

In the pink: How some of our buildings would look

Paint job: Clockwise from top left, Rose Theatre, Hampton Court Palace, the town centre phone boxes

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BINNED: Possessions go astray after council blunder

Heirlooms missing in lock-up cock-up

REPORTER
JON SHARMAN
jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk

A Kingston man lost possessions including a generations-old family bible estimated to be more than 100 years old when a Kingston Council mix-up led to his lock-up shed being reassigned.

Analytical chemist Noel Gaffney said he felt robbed after discovering his possessions missing and getting only "terse" communication from the council.

Mr Gaffney, 45, of Cumberland House in Kingston Hill, said: "I was taking the recycling down and noticed that the door was open. It was entirely empty with the door open.

"When my other half came back from work I spoke to her – we tried the key in the lock and it didn't work.

"The lock had been changed. I spoke to the estate office. They knew nothing about it.

"We couldn't really get them to admit what had happened until we got the police to talk to them."

Possessions gone: Noel Gaffney found his lock-up 'entirely empty with the door open'

Eventually the council confessed, he said.

All that was left was an old artificial Christmas tree and his golf clubs.

Missing items after the February mix-up include a family bible that had originally belonged to his great aunt passed down through three generations, and his daughter's college coursework and childhood toys.

Mr Gaffney, originally from Lincolnshire, said: "They had been put to one side for whatever reason and the rest of the stuff taken to the tip.

"I still feel we've been robbed. I haven't dared inform the family yet [about the bible]."

Mr Gaffney said the council had twice sent out a questionnaire, which he had filled in, to find out who used which shed at the flats.

Richard Grosvenor, strategic business manager at Kingston Federation of Residents, said: "It's appalling they have taken six weeks to respond to something as serious as that.

"I don't think the apology is sufficient.

"There is an attitude in the estates department which is not healthy towards tenants. It's something that the federation has been aware of for some time."

Kingston Council said it had written to the family.

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GRUESOME DEEDS: New exhibition delves into five centuries of crime and punishment in borough

Blood, guts and gore as grim past is uncovered

NEWS EDITOR
DAVID LINDSELL
dlindsell@
london.newsquest.co.uk

If you go down to Kingston Museum today, expecting a gentle stroll through history, beware.

Expect disembodied heads, gruesome torture implements, blood and guts, and realistic re-enactments of foul deeds.

Students at Anstee Bridge have taken over the top floor of the museum for an exhibition delving into five centuries of crime and punishment in the borough.

Crimes of the past have been recreated in the town by students and filmed to be shown on a loop.

Jason Philps, a teaching assistant at Anstee Bridge, said: "Looking up at the vastness of the gibbetts and seeing the eyeballs, there's a good [deal] of laughter, but when you read the stories about the woman burned at the stake it is a mixture.

"Visitors are enjoying it but a couple of people turned to me and said the stories were dark.

"They have no idea there's been a burning in Kingston and certain punishments were so painful.

"You stole a loaf of bread; 15 lashes and hard labour."

The exhibition has been created by students on the Anstee Bridge programme, led by Katherine Greening, which supports year 11 students who, for one day a week, require an alternative to school to ensure better engagement with education.

The crime and punishment exhibition was inspired by the Clink Museum in London, with reprehensible behaviour from Tudor times through to the Victorian era represented.

Their last project travelled back to the 1950s with self-portrait cartoons celebrating British Railways – recently installed at the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden.

Mr Philps said: "It is just so fun. We communicate with the students by giving confidence through creativity and it seems to excite the students and keep their interest."

Kingston's mayor Councillor Penny Shelton said: "I thought the talent shown there was enormous. Their ideas and creation were very interesting.

"I really [liked] the artwork, particularly the black and grey paintings – as well as their hard work.

"It's really tremendous."

Hannah Ward, Kingston Museum's learning and engagement officer, said: "The young people are inspiring. They have such vision and it has been an honour to help them to exhibit that.

"Each one of them has a unique and effervescent personality, which can clearly be seen in their work.

"The subject matter seems to have captured their imaginations and I believe our museum will be so much more the richer for hosting their exhibition."

● 1,000 years of crime and punishment; Kingston Museum, Wheatfield Way, Kingston, KT1 2PS; Open until Saturday, April 26, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday 10am to 5pm, Thursday 10am to 7pm.

Exhibition: Clockwise from top, Chloe Berry and Lauren Baker; Katie Thomas and Tiffany Goddard with a contraption for dipping 'witches' into a river; Jade Hitchin; Harry Levick KT84046

£30m operation

Last week the Kingston Guardian reported that Kingston College was a £560m operation but it is a £30m operation.

The college, which is a federation with Carshalton College, is currently in "outstanding" financial health but is expected to drop to "good" in the next rating by the Skills and Funding Agency.

The college has 500 members of staff.

Bringing justice back

Bringing the former Kingston Magistrates' Court back into use will take a year, Kingston Council officers estimate.

Parts of the space under the Guildhall could be rented out as offices, and the registrars service will also be accommodated there. The 12-month estimate includes time to appoint a contractor and gain planning permission from English Heritage.

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TRIBUTES: Mourners wear bright colours at funeral to celebrate student's life

Tayla 'was very much loved'

REPORTER
ROSS LOGAN
ross.logan@london.newsquest.co.uk

The funeral for 20-year-old aspiring journalist Tayla Woodard, who died after collapsing at her boyfriend's house in Worcester Park, has been held in her home town.

About 200 people packed into Egloshayle Parish Church in Wadebridge, Cornwall, on March 22, to say goodbye to the Bournemouth University student.

In accordance with the family's wishes, many mourners eschewed traditional black clothing in favour of bright colours, as a celebration of Miss Woodard's life.

David Bray, from funeral directors RJ Bray and Sons, said: "It was very well attended, and there were a number of tributes from family and friends.

"There were quite a few people in bright clothing, as well as others in more traditional black. She was very much loved."

Sunday People showbiz editor Katie Hind was among the mourners, later tweeting a picture of the order of service with the message: "Today I said goodbye to @TaylaMaeW. She was a budding journalist I was proud to mentor. She would have been the best."

Miss Woodard died on Sunday, March 9, hours after being taken ill at the home of her boyfriend Alex Rickett in Tamesis Gardens, Worcester Park.

She and Mr Rickett had been out in Brixton on the Saturday night to see a band, according to her father.

After returning, she collapsed at about 5am. She died in hospital at 6.22am that same day.

Mr Rickett, 21, was also taken to hospital as a precaution, but was later discharged.

The cause of Miss Woodard's death is still unexplained, but is being treated as non-suspicious.

A police spokesman said: "Tayla's unexplained death continues to be investigated by Kingston CID.

"A postmortem examination has taken place and further tests are being conducted. At this stage a cause of death has not been established.

"An inquest has been opened and adjourned."

Leave a tribute at kingstonguardian.co.uk

Aspiring journalist: Tayla Woodard

PEDAL POWER: Supporters of a children's charity took part in an Olympic-style static bike challenge last week. Groups of cyclists popped into the Momentum office, in Park Road, Kingston, to take part in the 156-mile challenge. Funds raised will go towards upgrading Momentum's two holiday homes in the New Forest.

LOTS OF BOUNCE: Put some added spring in your step this spring by trying out for a Kingston trampolining team. Kingston College Trampoline Academy will hold trials for new members from the 2014-15 intake on Tuesday, April 8, at 2.30pm. Email academy director Sarah Warren-Smith at sarah.warrensmith@kingstoncollege.ac.uk to book a space.

RAFFLE ROUSERS: A fun day at Surbiton Children's Centre saw some 63 people turn up, raising about £70 through a raffle and cake sale. The money is to be split between the centre and Sport Relief.

Coroner's open verdict on missing man's death

A missing man from Esher was found "badly decomposed" in New Malden a month after he was last seen alive, an inquest heard.

Darren Tollworthy, 42, also known as Darren or Danny Deacon, was reported missing on October 15 last year, two days after he was last seen alive in Hinchley Wood by a friend.

Coroner Dr Sean Cummings told the inquest, at West London Coroner's Court on Monday, March 24, it was normal for Mr Tollworthy to go off for a couple of days at a time.

Mr Tollworthy, who had previously suffered from alcohol dependency and drug-related problems, was found dead by police in a garden in New Malden on November 13.

His death came to the attention of police after a resident reported a backpack and bicycle had been propped up against her garage in Berkeley Lodge, Sandal Road, for two to three weeks.

The body was found lying face down in the undergrowth at the bottom of the garden.

Dr Cummings said the state of the decomposed body suggested it had been there "for several weeks".

Summing up he said: "Considering all the available documents to me, I am unable to reach a conclusion other than to say that I shall reach an open verdict."

Died: Darren Tollworthy

Grim discovery: Sandal Road

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Advertisement Feature

Raynes Park High School SPOTLIGHT

RPHS Careers Academy – Inspire their future

RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Headteacher's Welcome

We are delighted to report that RPHS continues to progress at a rapid rate and we are looking forward to a record set of results this summer. We continue with our innovative curriculum which gives students excellent opportunities to develop in all aspects of their character. As a forward thinking school we are delighted with the progress of our career academy project that we launched last year.

The aim of the Careers Academy project is to ensure every student develops a careers plan from Year 7 through to Year 13. As part of this we enable students to meet individuals in a range of careers to discuss entry and progression in the profession, the benefits, drawbacks and realities. Some of the Careers Academies taken place so far include careers in the European Commission; Police Force; Paediatric Nursing; Civil Service; Biomedical Science; TV Broadcasting & Programming. The highlight has undoubtedly been the visit from Google in March where students were subjected to a mock 'Google' interview and an insight into the demands and rewards of working for one of the world's largest companies. Students were also privileged to try the new 'Google Glass' in action.

The students at RPHS are a pleasure and a privilege to lead We welcome visitors to the school at any time – if you would like to come and see what we are doing please contact the school on 0208 946 4112 to arrange a visit.

< Phil Christer (Google Global Business Leader) demonstrating 'Google Glass' with intrigued Raynes Park High School Sixth Form Students.

Phillip Wheatley, Headteacher

High achievements and academic excellence

< Megan with fellow Sixth Formers celebrating A Level results and their new University places

RPHS Students: We are very proud of the many achievements of our students, both academically at A-Level, GCSE and for the wide range of extra-curricular achievements so many of our students embody.

Megan Horsford was delighted to receive her A Level results, with an A in Biology, an A in Chemistry and 2 Bs in Physics and Maths.

Talal, Deputy Head Boy

Megan is at Leeds University studying medicine with the ambition of becoming a paediatric doctor. Megan explained that her teachers were brilliant throughout her studies, in particular the support she received when completing her applications to university. "Everything teachers do is in the best interest of the students, I wouldn't have chosen anywhere else for my Sixth Form experience."

Talal Islam achieved an excellent set of GCSE results including 2 A* and 8 A grades.

Talal is currently studying in the RPHS Sixth Form studying Maths, Economics, English and Physics at A level, with a desire to study Economics or PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) at university.

Talal continues to thrive both in his studies and his extra-curricular involvement in Young Enterprise and as Deputy Head Boy

"Aside from getting a very high standard of education, Raynes Park High School offers students the opportunity to excel as a person, gain an understanding of life around you, and become a well-rounded person."

RPHS Basketball Academy

Over the past 7 months Raynes Park High School has rapidly risen to become a presence in the world of English basketball. The Raynes Park Academy which was only launched in September 2013 has gone on in its inaugural season to win a National Conference title and reach the semi-finals of the London central venue league. The success of all 3 teams this year has validated the innovative decision to start a basketball academy at the school.

Current Deputy Headteacher Paul Castle – who has a basketball background and international representative honours - has delivered a very ambitious plan. From inception the goal was to use basketball to develop all the players who came through the academy. Raynes Park High School was focused on developing key skills including team work, self-discipline, challenge and self-development in all the academy players and it is with pride that we report that all of these aims and ambitions have been fostered in the players at the Academy.

In the next season the Academy will continue to develop in a number of ways, including developing girls' basketball at the school by creating a girls team. We encourage any players who wish to develop their basketball game alongside a strong academic offer to consider Raynes Park as their destination of choice.

Prospective Sixth Formers interested in joining a Sixth Form combining Academic Studies with Sporting Excellence are invited to our Sports Academies Open Evening to find out more about our various Sports Academies, including rugby, netball and basketball

To find out more about our Basketball Academy, and new Rugby and Netball Academies due to start in September 2014 for Sixth Form students, please come along to our Sports Academies Open Evening on

- **Sports Academy Open Evening Wednesday 23rd April at 6.00 -7.30pm.**
- **Wednesday 30th April 2014 : Basketball awards evening**

Basketball academy trial dates:
- **Saturday 26th April (10am –1pm)**
- **Saturday 3 May (10am –1pm)**
- **Saturday 21st June (10am –1pm)**
- **Saturday 28th June (10am –1pm)**

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LEARNING FOR LIFE

Advertisement Feature

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Discover more about college at open evening

Richmond upon Thames College has gained a reputation for being one of the best in London

Richmond upon Thames College was established in 1977 and for 37 years has delivered an excellent education to thousands of 16 to 19 year olds from across Richmond, London, Surrey and Berkshire.

Today, Richmond upon Thames College is one of London's top performing colleges* and around 3,000 full-time students benefit from the college's breadth of curriculum and the specialist support services available to all students.

The college has developed a broad and attractive curriculum offer that meets the needs of a very wide range of students. Qualifications offered include 35 different A levels, the International Baccalaureate Diploma and an extensive choice of vocational qualifications at different levels.

The college is situated on a single site in Twickenham and is within easy walking distance of Twickenham town centre and its excellent public transport links.

All classes and extra curricular activities take place on the Egerton Road site, thus maximising study time and the opportunities available to students throughout the day.

Students are also able to access an extensive range of dedicated support services including their own personal tutor who will help them in all aspects of college life and encourage them to get the most out of their time at college and fulfil their ambitions.

Throughout their time at the college, students are treated as individuals. They are given every encouragement to grow and become more independent in preparation for the next stage of their life whether it is a gap year, employment or – as is the case for the majority of students – university.

The college is holding an open evening on Thursday, April 24 from 5pm to 8pm (last entry 7.30pm) for current year 10 and year 11 students and their parents/guardians.

More information is available by visiting www.rutc.ac.uk where prospective students can also register their details.

*** Source January 2014 – www.education.gov.uk (KS5 courses)**

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*www.education.gov.uk (Jan 2014 – KS5 courses)

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ONLINE TOP TEN

The best read stories at **kingstonguardian.co.uk**

1. **Woman suffers head injury after Eden Street Crash.**
2. Elderly woman dies after being hit in Kingston bus station.
3. **Hampton Wick roadworks cause huge tailbacks through Kingston and Surbiton.**
4. Father, *pictured above right*, who died after Breakfast Run named as Worcester Park man.
5. **Father-of-two died after racing with best friend in Kingston Breakfast Run.**
6. Runner dies after suffering cardiac arrest at finish line of Breakfast Run.
7. **Third fire in two months at Tolworth Girls' School.**
8. Elderly woman dies after being hit in Kingston bus station.
9. **Kingston town centre defeats Peppa Pig World and Legoland 'best family day out'.**
10. VIDEO: Teen wanted in connection with pickpocket thefts in Kingston

ONLINE OPINION

Add your views at **kingstonguardian.co.uk/yoursay**

Breakfast Run tribute

"r.i.p knowing you did a worth while cause . it maybe of no consolation to the family as they will miss you dearly , but i'm sure they are very proud of you"

PINKY 107

Kingston's Peel to close

"This is a real shame. I saw a few bands there as part of the House of Progression, including Fish (from Marillion), Genesis covers band Carpet Crawlers and local band Hoaxwind. I'll still go to places like the Grey Horse and the Fighting Cocks but The Peel will be missed."

REESMF

Shop's pink paint job

"Looks more Soho than Surbiton... Let's hope it's not a firm of financial asset strippers moving in..."

SURBITONDOG

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IN THE PINK: Spruce-up at former jeweller's store has turned a few heads

Historic shop front ruined by a garish pink paint job

It took just a few days to turn the elegant and historic black and gold frontage of the old Turners jewellers shops in Surbiton pink. It is to become a nail bar.

Thankfully, the new owner was not allowed to rip out the frontage completely due to planning restrictions that were imposed years too late to save the rest of Victoria Road's beautiful old shops.

The garish pink now sits two shops away from the gaudy yellow of Snappy Snaps.

Some time ago we had public consultations on the design and colour of lampposts and other street furniture.

Was that not rather pointless when we allow small businesses and national chains to do whatever they want?

Our town centres are far too important for us to allow shopkeepers to dictate the aesthetics as they clamour for our attention.

Our high streets are significant shared spaces and they help to define a town.

If we want to revive our high streets we should make them places people want to spend time and money in.

We could calm the whole thing down.

Is there not a case for a campaign to oblige shops to comply with certain standards of exterior colour and form?

Maybe even provide an incentive to those who make some effort towards restoring the original appearance.

DAVID COX
Surbiton

See news story on page 5

Join our protest to keep homes open

I write concerning the charity Scope's planned closure of their home at Lingfield Avenue, Surbiton, leading to serious problems for the residents, parents and carers of people in that home.

These are some of our most vulnerable people, who will lose their home, their friends and the community that is their familiar world.

In our neck of the woods, we have a similar situation where Scope is planning to close Drummonds, home to more than 40 disabled people.

This has left many parents and carers distraught with worry about their loved ones being homeless in 2016.

However, we are fighting against the closure of Drummonds, Wakes Hall and Hampton House and have involved MPs, local authorities and the media.

It would be helpful if parents and carers of the residents of other Scope homes such as Lingfield Avenue could contact me on 01353 669722 and help us make this protest nationwide.

FRANK LINDSELL
Ely

Respected runner Colin a true gent

Colin Higbee, a true gentleman of sport, passed away just after completing a charity fundraising effort at the Kingston Breakfast Run.

This was typical of Colin – nothing was too much trouble for him and he always offered to help.

He was well respected and loved at Raynes Park Little League, where he managed teams, including the Colts, Giants and Sabres.

He was also assistant manager of the Raynes Park team.

I would like to offer, on behalf of the Raynes Park Little League, our sincere condolences to Colin's family – his wife, Constantina, daughter Emma and son James. A true gentleman.

MICHAEL BROWNE
Senior league secretary
Raynes Park Little League

Cycle woes

I was alarmed to read a cycle path could be placed by the River Thames in front of the Gazebo pub, as this will obstruct both the view from the riverside of Kingston Bridge and the view of the river from the bridge and opposite bank.

Cyclists have already taken over our pavements, to the detriment of pedestrians, often passing [them] at high speed.

Bells seem to be a thing of the past.

JOSEPH HAND
Old Malden

Some shoddy workmanship

I have recently realised that the original pale fencing, that is still to be seen all over what is now Housing Partnership property in many cases, is in remarkably good nick considering it was installed by the council in Ham about 30 years ago.

What an absolute shame they do not use the same principle of quality materials and quality workmanship on our roads and pavements today.

The backlog of really poor materials and workmanship is plain to see all over Kingston.

There are constant inadequate repairs going on.

Gradually, getting it all done to a standard that will last for years to come must surely be a cheaper option.

The block pavers in Kingston look very nice, but do not seem to be standing up to the test of time.

CHRISTINE ARNOLD
Via email

Michael Davison snapped these daffodils in Prince Charles Spinney in Richmond Park. For details of how to submit a picture to Borough View, buy tomorrow's Surrey Comet

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Getting mobile with Motability

The leading car scheme for disabled people

Motability is the UK's leading car scheme for disabled people. Since it was set up in 1978, it has provided millions of people with affordable, convenient, trouble-free motoring through the provision of a new car. Powered wheelchairs and scooters can also be financed through the scheme. Motability's car and wheelchair schemes currently provide freedom and independence to over 630,000 disabled people and their families, across the UK.

The scheme is directed and overseen by Motability, a national charity that also raises funds and provides financial help to customers who would otherwise be unable to join the Scheme.

How the Motability scheme works

The Motability scheme enables disabled people to use their government-funded mobility allowances to lease a new car, powered wheelchair or scooter.

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E 220 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY EXECUTIVE SE Automatic	61/2011	Obsidian Black Metallic	19,335	£20,489
CLS 350 CDI Grand Edition Automatic	10/2010	Palladium Silver Metallic	48,467	£18,990
C 200 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Executive SE Automatic	13/2013	Magnetite Black Metallic	4,219	£20,489
SLK 250 BlueEFFICIENCY AMG Sport Edition 125 Automatic	61/2011	Calcite White	17,914	£28,490
C 350 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY AMG Sport Plus Automatic	62/2012	Iridium Silver Metallic	2,875	£27,989
E 220 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Saloon SE Automatic	13/2013	Iridium Silver Metallic	10,170	£28,446
C 220 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Coupé Automatic	62/2012	Iridium Silver Metallic	15,935	£23,989
C 250 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY AMG Sport Automatic	13/2013	Obsidian Black Metallic	8,900	£24,489
C 250 CDI Estate AMG Sport Automatic	63/2013	Magnetite Black Metallic	8,499	£26,489
E 220 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Estate SE Automatic	13/2013	Obsidian Black Metallic	11,298	£30,489
E 220 CDI Saloon SE Automatic	13/2013	Iridium Silver Metallic	20,406	£27,980
C 220 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Saloon AMG Sport Manual	62/2013	Tenorite Grey Metallic	13,289	£19,939
C 220 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Saloon AMG Sport Automatic	62/2013	Diamond Silver Metallic	11,795	£21,989
C 180 BlueEFFICIENCY Saloon Executive SE Automatic	13/2013	Palladium Silver Metallic	13,847	£17,300
C 200 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Saloon Executive SE Automatic	13/2013	Magnetite Black Metallic	17,244	£19,189
A 180 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY SE Automatic	13/2013	Polar Silver	15,226	£19,989
C 220 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Estate AMG Sport Automatic	62/2013	Tenorite Grey Metallic	10,817	£21,989
C 250 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Coupe AMG Sport Automatic	62/2013	Tenorite Grey Metallic	8,276	£26,489
C 250 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY AMG Sport Automatic	62/2012	Iridium Silver Metallic	9,117	£22,489
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Vibe SHORTS

STATES SOUNDS: US emo rockers The World is a Beautiful Place and I Am No Longer Afraid To Die will play two shows in Kingston next week. The Connecticut band will play an intimate under-18s show at Banquet Records in Eden Street on Monday, before heading to the Fighting Cocks in Old London Road for a full live show later that evening.

● **The World Is A Beautiful Place and I Am No Longer Afraid To Die; Banquet Records, Eden Street, Kingston; Monday, April 7, 6pm; £11.99; Fighting Cocks, Old London Road, Kingston (18+); £15; banquetrecords.com.**

FINE WINE: Vibraphone maestro Roger Beaujolais will be the guest at the Rose Theatre for April's Jazz First Tuesdays. The self-taught percussionist, who only started playing at the age of 24, will perform in the High Street venue's culture cafe at lunchtime on April 8.

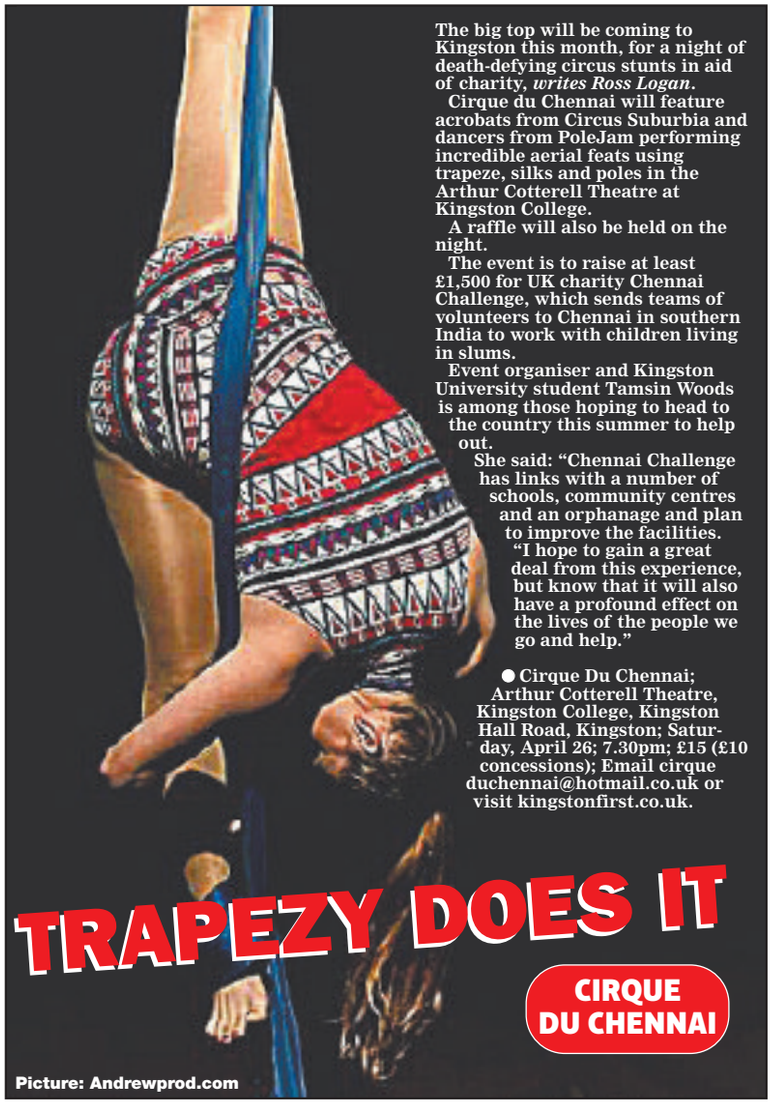
● **Roger Beaujolais; Rose Theatre, High Street, Kingston; Tuesday, April 8; 1.15pm; Free; rosetheatre kingston.org.**

GOT THE BLUES: Award-winning blues band Erin Harpe and the Delta Swingers will bring the sounds of Mississippi to Kingston for a free pre-tour warm up gig at the Grey Horse on Monday, April 7.

● **Erin Harpe and the Delta Swingers, the Grey Horse, Richmond Road, Kingston; Monday, April 7; 7.30pm; Free; grey-horse.co.uk.**

Vibe

kingstonguardian.co.uk/vibe



TRAPEZY DOES IT

CIRQUE DU CHENNAI

The big top will be coming to Kingston this month, for a night of death-defying circus stunts in aid of charity, *writes Ross Logan*.

Cirque du Chennai will feature acrobats from Circus Suburbia and dancers from PoleJam performing incredible aerial feats using trapeze, silks and poles in the Arthur Cotterell Theatre at Kingston College.

A raffle will also be held on the night.

The event is to raise at least £1,500 for UK charity Chennai Challenge, which sends teams of volunteers to Chennai in southern India to work with children living in slums.

Event organiser and Kingston University student Tamsin Woods is among those hoping to head to the country this summer to help out.

She said: "Chennai Challenge has links with a number of schools, community centres and an orphanage and plan to improve the facilities.

"I hope to gain a great deal from this experience, but know that it will also have a profound effect on the lives of the people we go and help."

● Cirque Du Chennai; Arthur Cotterell Theatre, Kingston College, Kingston Hall Road, Kingston; Saturday, April 26; 7.30pm; £15 (£10 concessions); Email cirque duchennai@hotmail.co.uk or visit kingstonfirst.co.uk.

Picture: Andrewprod.com

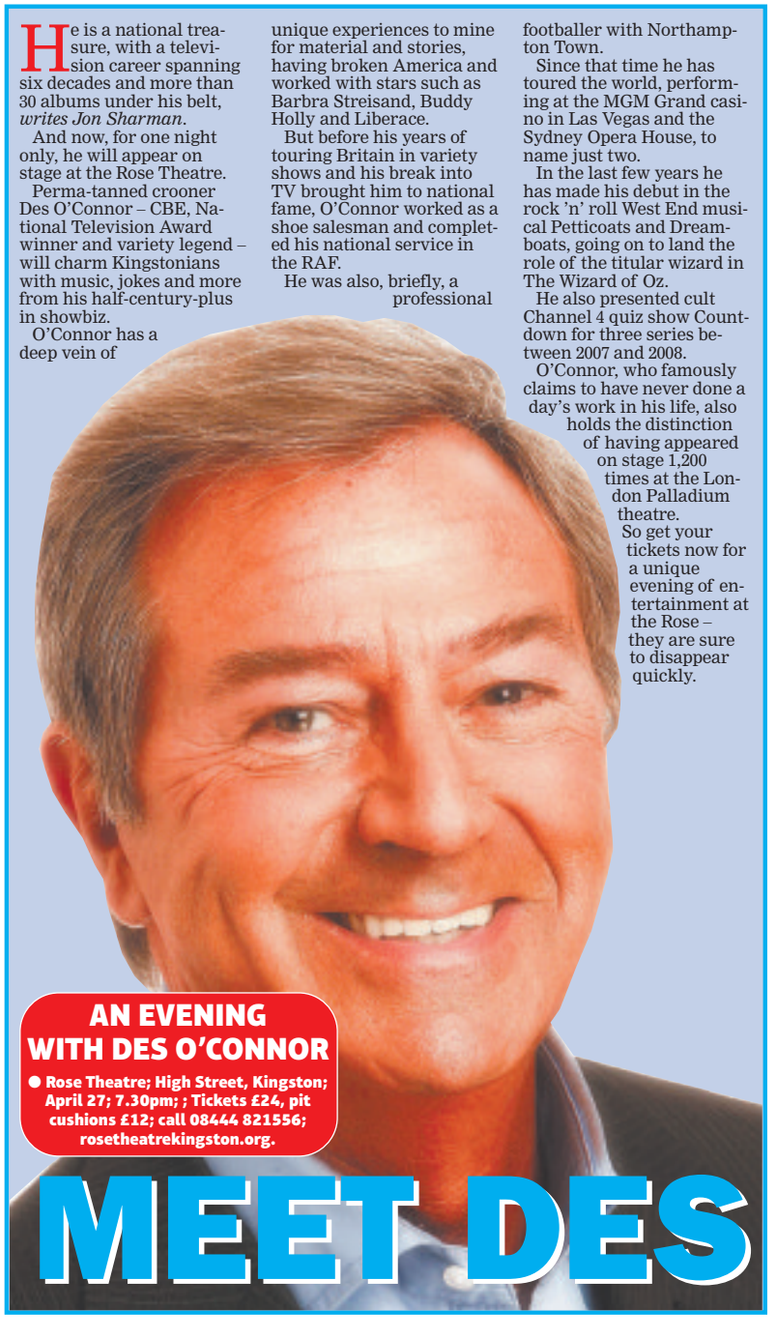
Artwork makes an impression

A retired architect who began painting as a hobby 20 years ago has seen his work go on public display for the latest exhibition at the Cornerhouse in Tolworth.

Rod Pearson's work will be displayed at the Douglas Road theatre until May 3, with a gala evening being held on Tuesday, April 22.

"My architectural training meant that I was used to drawing, but beyond that I have had no lessons," Pearson says. "I love looking at pictures and I try to develop my technique by studying the work of painters whom I admire, particularly the Impressionists, to try to work out how they achieve their effects."

● **Watercolours by Rod Pearson; Cornerhouse, Douglas Road, Tolworth; until Saturday, May 3; Gala night Tuesday, April 22; 7pm to 9pm; Free; thecornerhouse.org.**



MEET DES

AN EVENING WITH DES O'CONNOR

● **Rose Theatre; High Street, Kingston; April 27; 7.30pm; ; Tickets £24, pit cushions £12; call 08444 821556; rosetheatrekingston.org.**

He is a national treasure, with a television career spanning six decades and more than 30 albums under his belt, *writes Jon Sharman*.

And now, for one night only, he will appear on stage at the Rose Theatre.

Perma-tanned crooner Des O'Connor – CBE, National Television Award winner and variety legend – will charm Kingstonians with music, jokes and more from his half-century-plus in showbiz.

O'Connor has a deep vein of unique experiences to mine for material and stories, having broken America and worked with stars such as Barbra Streisand, Buddy Holly and Liberace.

But before his years of touring Britain in variety shows and his break into TV brought him to national fame, O'Connor worked as a shoe salesman and completed his national service in the RAF.

He was also, briefly, a professional footballer with Northampton Town.

Since that time he has toured the world, performing at the MGM Grand casino in Las Vegas and the Sydney Opera House, to name just two.

In the last few years he has made his debut in the rock 'n' roll West End musical Petticoats and Dreamboats, going on to land the role of the titular wizard in The Wizard of Oz.

He also presented cult Channel 4 quiz show Countdown for three series between 2007 and 2008.

O'Connor, who famously claims to have never done a day's work in his life, also holds the distinction of having appeared on stage 1,200 times at the London Palladium theatre.

So get your tickets now for a unique evening of entertainment at the Rose – they are sure to disappear quickly.

Vibe INSIDE: Have a flutter p20 Creature feature p21

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HAVE A FLUTTER

A day at the races is a chance to dress in your finest and have a great day out with friends. But when it comes to placing bets, picking a winner can baffle first timers. But with some great meets coming up tipster PAUL DARVILLE is on hand to teach you how to back a winner if you feel like having a flutter

Picture: John Walton

Picture: Stephen Pond

DARVILLE'S TOP TIPS

1 **The odds are not as important as the other details when putting the betting puzzle together.** Look into a horse's previous form in races, who is the jockey for the horse, if it has ever raced at that course before and what ground and conditions it has run on before. It's putting lots of pieces into a puzzle and hoping it all comes out looking all right. Once I have researched everything else I would have a rough idea about what the odds should be and if it is different to what I am expecting, then I will look again.

2 **It is okay to back a horse because you like the name or if you like the colours the jockey is wearing.** You can choose a horse by the name if it has an affinity to you but I don't recommend putting too much money or faith in the horse until you look a little bit deeper.

3 **Study the racecard carefully.** Read the previous form, but also look at who the jockey is, and if they have previous racing experience under that trainer and horse.

4 **Ones to watch for the flat racing season.** Watch out for young jockey, Oisin Murphy. He is destined to be a star. Ryan Moore oozes class and is one to look out for at Epsom for Derby Day in June as he handles the track better than most. Roger Varian is a trainer to watch for as he has classier horses every year. In terms of horses, I will be watching for Lucky Kristale and Kingston Hill in the bigger races.

IN THE SADDLE: ● At Epsom Downs the season starts with the Investec spring meeting. **Epsom Downs Racecourse, Epsom Downs; April 23; 01372 726311, epsomdowns.co.uk.** ● Lingfield Park is making history by becoming the first course to stage racing on Good Friday. **Lingfield Park, Racecourse Road, Lingfield; April 18; 01342 834800, lingfieldpark.co.uk.**

● **For more horse racing news, visit kingstonguardian.co.uk/sport/horseracing**

Kingfisher: A painting by Sue Monteath

Artists from across Elmbridge and further afield will come together to show off their work in oil, pastel, watercolour and more this month.

Professionals and amateurs will exhibit some 400 works at the Molesey Art Society's spring show which this year, for the first time, includes digital prints.

One painter, Sue Monteath from Surbiton, joined the society in 2009 after her daily commute to London forced her to find a way of relieving the stress.

She turned to art and through the society has now sold some of her paintings, which depict flowers, birds and still life.

As the weather brightens up, why not brighten up your weekend with a visit to the society's exhibition for a browse.

● **Molesey Art Society spring exhibition; St Alban's School, Beauchamp Road, East Molesey; April 10-11 and April 14, 2pm to 6pm; April 12-13, 11am-5pm; free entry.**

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Vibe

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

Humans have been keeping pets for thousands of years, but it looks as though dogs might no longer be man's best friend, *writes Hannah Mirsky.*

Unusual pets are on the rise in the UK, and snakes, bearded dragons and lizards might soon be everywhere.

The Federation of British Herpetologists states that reptiles have made up the fastest-growing sector of the British pet industry for the past two decades.

More unusual mammals, such as hedgehogs, degus and chinchillas are also being sold.

Sebastien Latour, owner of Creature Company pet shop in Wimbledon, says there are two reasons people generally choose unusual creatures: they might simply be looking for something that's "not your run-of-the-mill pet" to make them stand out, or they might have allergies to fur that prevent them from choosing a conventional fluffy bunny.

He says: "I have a rabbit and a snake and I love them both.

"My rabbit will come up for cuddles on the sofa and watch TV with me, while I find it beautiful just to sit and observe my snake."

Snakes are lower maintenance than more traditional pets, as they don't require lots of physical affection and only need feeding once a week – but owners do have to stock up on mice, the reptile's favourite food.

The trend for unusual pets can be seen in the celebrity world too.

Micropigs are particularly popular, with Paris Hilton, Rupert Grint and David Beckham all reportedly owning one.

Justin Bieber recently abandoned his capuchin monkey in Germany, while Mike Tyson's tiger (probably not the easiest creature to try to keep at home) was made famous by 2009 comedy The Hangover.

A carnivorous big cat – or even a mouse-eating snake – might not be for you, but next time you are at the pet shop, maybe it's worth thinking outside the rabbit hutch.

SNAKIN: Reptile enthusiasts can come in for a meet and greet with geckos, pythons and tarantulas in Surbiton. In fact, you can even take home some of your favourite slithering and crawling creatures. **Reptile Kingdom, 122 Ewell Road, Surbiton, call 020 8390 5474, visit reptilekingdom.co.uk**

Perfect pets? Clockwise from top: Animals such as snakes, degus, chinchillas, bearded dragons and hedgehogs are increasingly being kept as pets

MAKING A KILLING

An evening of murder and mayhem will be brought to a quiet village by the Claygate Dramatic Society.

Arsenic and Old Lace comes to Claygate courtesy of director Tony Wall, who starred in Joseph Kesserlring's classic comedy thriller in the 1960s, alongside Dame Sybil Thorndike and a young Richard Briers.

Wall will be hoping some of the antics that occurred at the Vaudeville Theatre 50 years ago will not be repeated. He recalls Briers coming off stage sweating profusely after one scene where Thorndike and co-star Athene Seyler threw him ad lib lines, forcing him to come up with suitable responses.

● **Arsenic and Old Lace; Claygate Village Hall, Church Road, Claygate; May 1 to May 3, 8pm; £10; Call 01372 466621 or email annehennings@hotmail.co.uk.**

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Average wait to buy in UK is 3.6 years

According to a new survey 52 per cent of UK adults are considering a house move or getting on the property ladder, but most think that they will be unlikely to fulfil their home dreams in the next 12 months.

The costs associated with buying and moving home, together with high house prices, are cited as the main barriers to moving, leaving 21 per cent of those surveyed fearing that they will never afford a house move or to buy a property.

The survey, commissioned by Gocompare.com Home Insurance, found on average those considering a house move or thinking about buying their first property have been mulling over their plans for 3.6 years. The biggest obstacles to the nation's housing hopes are: the cost of buying/moving (16 per cent); high house prices in the area they want to buy (16 per cent); the cost of running a house (15 per cent); raising a deposit (14 per cent); uncertainty about job security or income (10 per cent) and a lack of availability of the type of house they would like to buy (nine per cent).

Ben Wilson from Gocompare.com Home Insurance, said: "Low interest rates and improved confidence in the economy are creating potentially ideal conditions for the housing market.

"However, the high costs associated with buying and moving home, together with the requirement to put down a bigger deposit, are preventing many people from realising their property dreams."

Sales surge sees a drop in the number of accidental landlords

The number of people letting out properties because they have been unable to sell has dropped to a record low.

According to a new report, the percentage of letting agents seeing an increase in rental property entering the market because it cannot be sold has fallen to just 13 per cent.

This figure represents the fourth consecutive fall, and is far below the 94 per cent high recorded when the question was first asked at the start of 2009, during the post credit crunch property crisis.

The report comes from the Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA) which says the renewed ability to sell property is having a significant effect on the overall shape of the residential investment market.

Ian Potter, managing director of ARLA, said: "The resurgence of property prices and buyer demand in many areas is reducing the number of so-called accidental landlords.

"Despite the reduction of landlords in this situation, wider investment in rental properties remains strong across the market.

"The shape of the private rented sector is changing once again, with long-term landlords returning to the fore."

The report adds that the proportion of ARLA members who think landlords are currently decreasing their net investment by selling properties is up sharply, from 15 per cent to 20 per cent. This is while the proportion of respondents who think landlords are increasing their net investment by buying properties declined from 43 per cent to 42 per cent.

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Malden Hill Gardens, New Malden £635,000

An elegant, semi-detached Edwardian house laid out over two floors and offered for sale in good decorative order throughout. The property retains a lot of charm and character and the accommodation comprises a superb through living/dining room which opens onto the lovely mature rear garden, a fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and a good size family bathroom and at the front there is off-street parking. Malden Hill Gardens is a popular, residential road and is ideally placed for many of the local amenities; both the High Street and station are just a short walk away, as is Beverley Park, with its 17 acres incorporating tennis courts and a childrens play area. EPC rating E.

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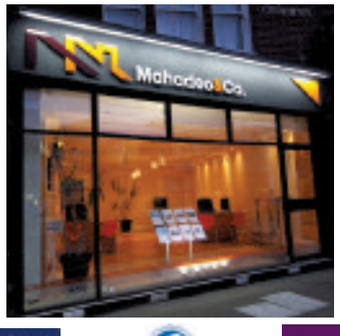

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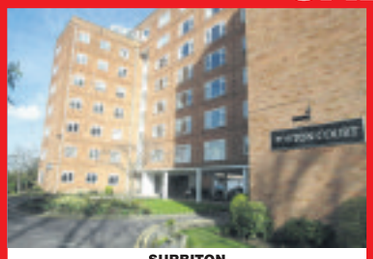

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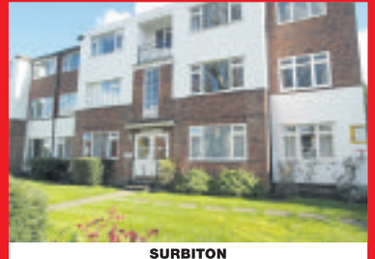

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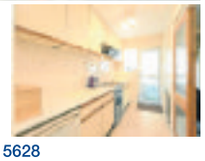

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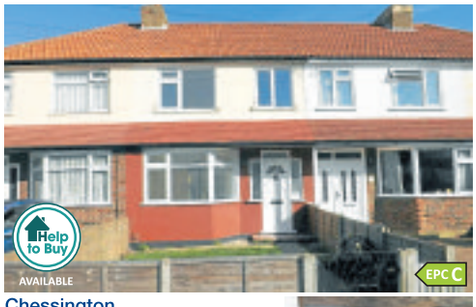

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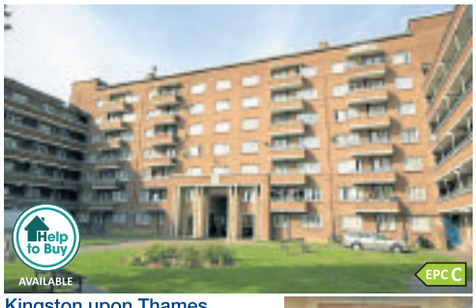

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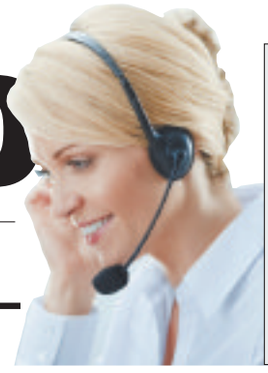

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Obituary Notice

JOAN OLIVE KAVANAGH
Of West Molesey, aged 83 years, passed away on the 26th March 2014. She was much loved and will be sadly missed. Funeral will take place at St. Peters Church, Molesey on 8th April at 2.00pm. Flowers or donations to Cancer Research UK may be sent to Lodge Brothers, East Molesey 020 8941 1412

Public Notices

LICENSING APPLICATION - LICENSING ACT2003

Take notice that we Thompson Bros (Esher) Ltd have made an application to Elmbridge Borough Council acting as the Licensing Authority, for a new Premises Licence in respect of Garson Farm, Winterdown Road, West End, Esher, Surrey KT10 8LS

The application and the Licensing Authority's public register can be inspected at: Environmental Health & Licensing Division, Elmbridge Borough Council, Civic Centre, High Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 9SD. Applications may be inspected Monday to Friday (except on public holidays) between the hours of 9.00 am to 4.30 pm.

The date by which interested parties or responsible authorities may make representations to the relevant Licensing Authority against this application is 28th April 2014. Any representations made must be made in writing and may not be submitted by fax or email without prior approval.

Take note that it is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is Level 5 on the standard scale of fines (£5,000)

PAUL JOSEPH FLYNN (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 30 Bridge Street Walton on Thames Surrey KT12 1AH, who died on 24/02/2013, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 06/06/2014, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
THE CO-OPERATIVE LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED
Aztec 650 Aztec West
Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4SD
(Ref: RTR/3335130P/Flynn) *T406942*

ANTHONY JAMES CORNELL (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Esher, who died on 15/02/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 06/06/2014, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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Surrey RH4 1BQ *T405997*

ADRIAN BEST (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 302 Hook Road Chessington Surrey KT9 1NY, who died on 23/10/2011, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 13/06/2014, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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(Ref: JMI/982680P/Best) *T406248*

KEITH RICHARD COLVERSON (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 2 Park Lawn Road Weybridge Surrey KT13 9EU, who died on 18/02/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before two months and one day from the date of this publication, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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PAULINE SHEFTELL (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Sunrise Senior Living Ellesmere Road Weybridge Surrey, who died on 28/01/2012, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 13/06/2014, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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News

Drivers opt for more silver and black

The popularity of grey, silver and black is draining the colour from UK cars, according to latest statistics.

While the number of red-coloured and blue-coloured vehicles has dipped over the last year, drivers sporting black-hued motors has risen, as has the number of grey-coloured cars.

Figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), the figures showed that silver was the most-popular car colour in 2013, accountingfor 24.9 per cent of all vehicles.

Second was blue (20.3 per cent), but this represented a 2.7 per cent dip on the 2012 figure. In contrast black rose 4.8 per cent to 18.4 per cent and grey was up 5.6 per cent to 10.8 per cent, just behind red which slipped 0.5 per cent to 10.9 per cent.

THIS WEEK'S MODEL...

Tourneo Connect

VITAL STATS

- **Model:** 1.6 TDCi 95PS Zetec
- **0-62 mph:** 14.7 seconds
- **Max speed:** 100mph
- **Official Combined mpg:** 56.5
- **Insurance Group:** 6E

Van-based people carriers aren't new, *writes Philip Shoulder.* But this new Tourneo Connect – Ford's latest addition to its People Carrier range – stands out from the competition (and its predecessor of the same name) by using a car-based platform and running gear. It might still wear van-like looks, but under the skin it has more in common with Ford's C-Max MPV.

The Tourneo Connect has five seats, with the longer Grand Tourneo Connect model having seven. Both variants get dual sliding rear doors. Connect prices start from £14,245, while the Grand kicks off at £16,745.

The range comprises three trim levels: Style, Zetec and Titanium and the engine line-up consists of a 1.6 litre TDCi diesel (offered in 95 PS and 115PS outputs) and two petrol EcoBoost motors: a 100 PS 1.0 litre and 150 PS 1.6.

A height-adjustable driver's seat and steering wheel that adjusts for reach and rake means it's easy to get comfortable, while the extra large windscreen gives a great view of the road.

But it's the cabin that's surely going to be of key interest for people choosing this variant of Ford people carrier.

Climb aboard and the first thing you're struck by is the vast van-like head room and overhead storage shelf. Cargo capacity is more in the van realm, too – easily swallowing two mountain bikes, four suitcases and a surfboard.

Here van comparisons stop though. The space has remained, versatility has increased and been joined by much improved driving manners and increased refinement and comfort levels.

The new Connect's spec list has gone from sparse to generous and, while the exterior proportions remain rather boxy, styling is certainly more desirable now, too.

MotorMouth

email motors@london.newsquest.co.uk

Time to hang up the gloves?

Older drivers should consider whether they are safe to drive, according to road safety charity the Institute of Advanced Motorists, and it has offered them these tips.

• Currently motorists are required to renew their licence at 70, and then every three years after that. Make sure you keep up-to-date with your renewals, or you could end up driving illegally.

• When you renew your licence you are asked to self-certify the state of your health. Be honest with yourself – it may be worth going for an all-round check-up with your GP before you choose which box to tick.

• Whether it is time to renew or not, you have a legal requirement to inform the DVLA as soon as possible if you are diagnosed with dementia.

• Your eyesight will inevitably deteriorate as you age, but the law requires drivers to be able to read a car number plate from a distance of 20 metres, whatever your age. If you need glasses or contact lenses to do this, they must be worn at all times when driving.

• If you are diagnosed with a condition which causes vision impairment, the law says you must inform the DVLA. Failure to do so is a criminal offence.

• Online and on-road assessments are available for older drivers to make sure your driving is still up to scratch.

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Models shown for illustrative purposes only. **Terms & Conditions:** Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. **Servicing:** 2 years' complimentary servicing or 25,000 miles, whichever comes first, and includes a maximum of 2 services. Complimentary servicing available with Honda Aspirations (PCP) only and covers the manufacturer's scheduled servicing only. Offer applicable to Used Car Event held between 4 April 2014 to 21 April 2014 and applicable to cars between 1 month and 24 months old.

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1. The following conditions apply to the placing of an order for insertion of advertisements in Newsquest Media Group ("Newsquest") printed or electronic publications. Each order will form a separate agreement and English law will apply. Any change to these conditions must be agreed by us in writing (which means by exchange of letter, fax or email). An "advertiser" means any person or organisation placing an advertisement on their own account or on behalf of another.

Contents

2. The advertiser confirms that the advertisement complies with all applicable legislation, regulations and codes of practice, including the codes supervised by the Advertising Standards Authority. We may reject or require changes to any advertisement so as to comply with legal or moral obligations placed on us or the advertiser; to avoid infringing the rights of a third party or any relevant code of practice; or to meet our published production and quality specifications.
3. The advertiser further confirms that:
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   ii) all licences and consents from third parties necessary for the publication of the advertisement have been obtained and paid for, including consent from living persons identified in copy or pictures (photographic or otherwise);
   iii) in respect of an investment advertisement, the contents have been approved by, or the advertiser is, and authorised person within the meaning of the Financial Services Act 1986 as amended or the advertisement is otherwise permitted under that Act.

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5. By placing an order with us, an advertising agency confirms that it contracts as principal with full authority from its client in all matters connected with the order and is responsible for all payments due. We will only accept advertisements from advertising agencies if they are recognised by us.
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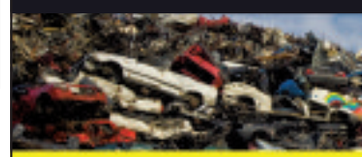

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Byatt leads Casuals survival fight

Corinthian Casuals striker Jamie Byatt, *right*, scored his 26th goal of the season to put his side within sight of Ryman Division One South safety.

Byatt's strike saw boss Matt Howard's men beat Three Bridges 1-0 at King George's Field last Thursday to move three points clear of the drop.

"They know there is still a long way to go and we are still in a scrap until the end," said Howard, whose men lost to Chipstead 1-0 on Saturday.

"We play Redhill on the final day and it could go all the way."

More sport: kingstonguardian.co.uk

See you soon: Chemmy Alcott is unlikely to be out of the limelight for long

Alcott: I quit out of love

Former Surbiton High School student Chemmy Alcott called time on her alpine racing career last week so she could carry on skiing, *writes Stuart Amos*.

The 31-year-old, who finished 19th in the downhill at her fourth Winter Olympics in Sochi, will call it a day after the British Alpine Ski Championships this week.

Alcott, who will marry fellow ski racer Dougie Crawford in July, has suffered three leg breaks in her career – the last of which last year left her in a race against time to make the Olympics.

She had talked of a crack at next year's World Championships in Beaver Creek providing she was competitive.

But a crash in a World Cup downhill race in Switzerland earlier this month changed her mind.

"People assume I had made the decision to retire before the Olympics, but that was not the case," she said.

"But after that crash it got to the point where I was thinking I love to ski and I don't ever want to have that taken away from me."

Alcott has been Britain's most successful alpine skier and is the only Briton to win a run in a World Cup race in the giant slalom at Soelden in Austria in 2008.

Paired up

Worcester Park racing driver Howard Fuller and New Malden's Tom Onslow-Cole may not be involved in the British Touring Car Championship this summer, but they will still share racedays.

Fuller, 21, is set to star in a Team Hard Volkswagen Golf for a season in the VW Cup – a support series to the British GT Championships, in which Onslow-Cole competes.

Both series start at Oulton Park on April 20.

TITLE FIGHT: Surbiton in high spirits for Championship play-offs

Winning is everything

SPORTS EDITOR
STUART AMOS
samos@london.newsquest.co.uk

Flashback: Surbiton keeper David Kettle thwarts a Beeston attack in last year's MHL Championship play-off final that ended in a 5-1 defeat Ady Kerry

Head coach Todd Williams insisted his men are not heading to the MHL Premier Division championship play-offs this weekend to make up the numbers – they are in it to win it.

The Sugden Road side finished the regular campaign in the fourth and final qualifying spot after a 6-5 defeat to Saturday's semi-final opponents East Grinstead last month.

Surbition, who have scored 35 goals in their past seven league encounters, crashed 5-1 to Beeston in last year's final, having beaten Canterbury 5-3 in the semis.

That was the first time the club had reached the final of the showpiece event and Williams reckoned the bitter experience would only help.

"When we got through the semi-final there was a tremendous out-pouring of relief in the changing room," he said.

"It was a monkey off our backs and I think we were not as focused on the final as we might have been.

"Everyone goes on about qualifying for Europe as the priority, but for me it is about winning the championship. Everything else takes care of itself if we do that."

Surbiton will have the Premier Division's leading marksman Matt Daly in their ranks when they face the league winners on Saturday looking for a place in Sunday's final.

And, while Williams is happy his men will pose an attacking threat, he knows his side must tighten up at the back to prevail.

"Hopefully, we will have learned from the last time we played them," he said.

"We are happy with our scoring potential, but we cannot simply rely on scoring more than them."

Drage's heroics no surprise to Ks coach

Unsung hero: Kingstonian defender Matt Drage scored only his second league goal of the campaign to land a vital three points for his side at the weekend SP81840

SPORTS EDITOR
STUART AMOS
sports@london.newsquest.co.uk

Kingstonian assistant boss Martin Tyler admitted Saturday's injury-time drama at Kingsmeadow came as no real surprise to him.

Defender Matt Drage struck a 96th minute winner as Ks beat Bury Town 2-1 in the Ryman Premier League to strengthen their play-off aspirations.

His goal came minutes after the visitors had themselves struck in stoppage time to level Charlie Knight's 54th minute opener.

Sky Sports football commentator Tyler has seen it all before and while he feared the worst when Bury levelled things up he was always confident Ks would get another shot at winning.

"There's nothing that can make you feel so unhappy and so happy in quick succession as football," said Tyler.

"It wasn't much fun in the dugout, I can tell you."

"Having got in front, it was devastating to concede an equaliser so close to the end and you fear the worst.

"But you always felt there'd be one more chance. We knew there were three or four minutes extra to play."

The result saw Ks hit the 70-point mark with seven games to play prior to Wednesday's trip to Grays Athletic.

Boss Alan Dowson's men travel to Cray Wanderers on Saturday knowing their hosts have conceded more than 100 goals this term.

Champions

Surbiton's U16 girls proved the club's future is in safe hands after being crowned national champions.

The Sugden Road youngsters upset the odds to end title-holders Wakefield's six season winning streak with a 2-0 final triumph in west Yorkshire at the weekend.

Surbiton's U16 boys came fourth after a 7-3 third-place play-off defeat to Cambridge.

Next generation: Surbition's U16 girls celebrate with the trophy in west Yorkshire at the weekend Picture: Colin Pike

ON THE UP: Tiffin School's old boys Old Tiffinians celebrated claiming the Surrey Division One title last week by winning 47-21 at Old Freemens on Saturday. The East Molesey-based outfit had secured a spot in the RFU's London leagues with a 37-24 win over Old Whitgiftians seven days earlier. Club captain James Fentiman said: "We have got some amazing centres, but our forwards have definitely laid the foundations for our success. We are in the London leagues for the first time in our history, which is amazing to think we once asked to be demoted to Surrey Division Three." Old Tiffs go to Old Blues this week.

MEDAL MAGIC: Kingston Royals head coach Paul Hurley praised the club's strength in depth as they collected six more medals at the Surrey County Swimming Championships. Kingston claimed four silver and bronze relay medals and two to take their championship haul to 69 – 30 more than the club collected at last year's championships. Hurley said: "The Surreys 2014 have been great for the club and the six medals in the relays – up from just one last year – shows the improvement in depth of talent. Our swimmers have performed brilliantly." The London Regional Championships are up next at the Olympic Pool in Stratford in May and June.

MAIDEN TRIUMPH: Kingston AC & Polytechnic Harrier Mollie O'-Sullivan claimed the second Bushy Park parkrun win of her career on Saturday in her second appearance at the iconic event. The 14-year-old Surrey Schools' U15 girls cross country champion clocked 18 minutes 50 seconds – a new personal best – to be the first female athlete home behind overall winner Stragglers Running Club's Anthony Jackson, who finished two seconds short of his personal best in 15:34.

DAVID NOT BLUNT-ED: Tolworth athlete David Blunt leapt to a World Masters Indoor Championships bronze medal at the weekend. The 60-year-old Epsom & Ewell Harriers president cleared 3.35 metres to finish third in the M60 pole vault in Budapest. Blunt also finished seventh in the M60 high jump.

SURVIVAL FIGHT: Kingston look to stretch their Surrey Division One winning form on Saturday. The Hook Road oufit, who host fourth placed Battersea Ironsides this week, have won their last three matches to have a fighting chance of beating the drop with two games to play.

CUT PRICE KS: Kingstonian have taken steps to slash ticket prices to £5 for the crunch visit of play-off rivals Lowestoft Town at Kingsmeadow on April 12. Town were three points behind sixth-placed Ks in the Ryman Premier League promotion race prior to the midweek fixtures.

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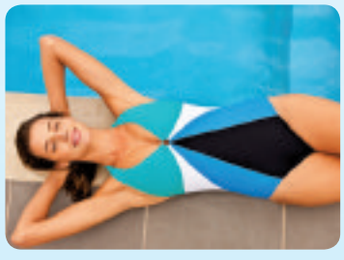

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